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- Today's Insider (PDF)



YOU DON'T SAY...

"I'm actually closer to four other state capitals than my own."

Sen. Jim Davis, R-Macon on his 315-mile commute to Raleigh during the session.

THE INSIDER 7/13/17

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News Summary

Session Length

Former Rep. Charles Jeter, R-Mecklenburg, loved serving in the N.C. House, but in July 2016 -- after serving two terms -- he resigned. The work had taken a toll on his life outside of Raleigh. He had to refocus.

"For me personally, it was tragic, nothing short of tragic," Jeter said of how the time commitment impacted his life. He said he had to close his trucking business after 14 years and had put his family into financial ruin.

"I volunteered for the job, but I didn't recognize, I didn't realize the impact on my business, and my not being there every day, and spending so much time away," he said.

And to Jeter, the General Assembly is no longer the part-time citizen legislature it was intended to be.

"You're still spending 20-25 hours, 30 hours a week doing this job when we're not in session," Jeter said. "To me we're already at full-time, and we don't get compensated."

Over the past four years, it's become clear that the legislature is spending more time lawmaking, which makes it harder for lawmakers to have a job that supplements their income. In 2015, the session lasted until late September. In 2016, lawmakers came back for five special sessions. And while this year's long session was the second quickest long session since 1973, lawmakers are scheduled to come back in August and September, but could also add additional sessions before a self-imposed Nov. 15 redistricting deadline. The long months and constant work flow impacts every lawmaker on Jones Street, but some have had to cut back on their other jobs in their districts. Others are aware that if they weren't beyond their prime earning years, they wouldn't be able to be a lawmaker.

Rep. Carla Cunningham, D-Mecklenburg, is one of the members who has had to scale back work because of the longer sessions. She was a hospice nurse when she was elected in 2012. During her first session, she was able to keep her job and work on the weekends and when session was adjourned. But during the 2015-2016 session, things changed.

"We stayed so long," she said. "My credentials had expired, so I went ahead and started the process (to renew)." But by the time she had everything in order, the next session was ready to begin, she said.

"I wasn't too keen on that," she said. "You would like to have some hours in your field still so you keep up to date with technology, with how they're doing in the field."

Cunningham said nurses have to be re-credentialed after six months of not practicing, and that second session she was out of practice for about nine months. During that time she kept up with her continuing education. Right now her credentials are "up in the air." She said it takes about four to six weeks to get everything together for her credentials.

Sen. Jim Davis, R-Macon, is in the other group of lawmakers. He works about a day-and-a-half a week at his orthodontic practice when session is in. He keeps that same schedule when session is adjourned so his patients are used to it. Davis, 70, said he wouldn't have been able to be a lawmaker when he was younger.

"But somebody in their prime earning years, they wouldn't be able to do this, unless they're independently wealthy, and I certainly wasn't," he said. Davis travels more than 300 miles to and from Raleigh each week when the legislature is in, and that five-hour drive takes up a chunk of his time.

"So you combine my day-and-a-half of practice, and three-and-a-half days in Raleigh when session is going on, and extra session responsibilities, it makes a full schedule," Davis said.

The National Conference of State Legislatures categorizes North Carolina as a "hybrid" legislature -- meaning that members spend a significant amount of time being legislators, but the pay isn't enough to live on. A total of 26 states are considered to be "hybrids" according to the NCSL. Only 10 states have a full-time legislature. Members of the N.C. legislature are paid \$13,951 a year, with leaders earning more -- Senate leader Phil Berger and House Speaker Moore make more than \$38,000, and majority and minority leaders make more than \$17,000.

Lawmakers also receive an \$104 per diem for food and lodging, a \$559 monthly expense allowance and get paid 29 cents for every mile they travel to and from session. So even factoring in the per diem and travel allowances, it's still not easy to live on lawmaker pay. During a typical long session -- which is about seven months -- a lawmaker could make about \$22,880 in per diem payments on top of their salary. According to the U.S. Census, the median household income of a North Carolina resident is \$46,868.

David McLennan, a political science professor at Meredith College in Raleigh, said there are two upsides to having a full-time legislature -- more time to consider legislation and the ability for a wider range of people to run for office.

He said that looking at the composition of the legislature, you can see a lot of retired and wealthy individuals.

"(We) don't have a lot of people employed in traditional jobs," he said, noting it would be "too difficult" for someone employed in a traditional job to combine their work life and their political life.

Both chamber leaders -- Berger, R-Rockingham, and Moore, R-Cleveland, are lawyers. Both minority party leaders, Sen. Dan Blue, D-Wake, and Rep. Darren Jackson, D-Wake, are lawyers. And many members on both sides of the aisle are lawyers.

McLennan noted that the General Assembly was created to be a part-time, citizen legislature and changing it can make lawmaking more of a profession and increase members' tenures.

What would it take to become a full-time legislature?

"In a political stance, it would take both parties to kind of agree that they would support it, and that in today's political environment would be a deal breaker, and convincing the North Carolina electorate," McLennan said. "I think even if you can get past the hurdle of the legislature ... to get that passed by the public would be very challenging."

McLennan said leaders would have to make the case that a full-time legislature would lead to better governance, which can be a difficult one to make, because there is cynicism to overcome. Davis, the senator from Macon County, said he doesn't believe sessions are going to continue to get longer or that more work will be done during special or extra sessions.

"I think sometimes we adjourn, and the governor hasn't considered all the bills, and he's vetoed some, and we need to come back into session whether or not we're going to override the veto. Sometimes the courts put issues before us that we have to consider, like redistricting," Davis said. "I don't anticipate it being the new norm, I feel like there is a real effort by leadership to minimize the extra sessions and to get our business done in time."

He doesn't see the need for a full-time legislature. "If the legislators keep heading toward the mission of getting appropriate legislation accomplished for the citizens and get it done in an efficient manner, then there is no reason in my opinion for it to be a full-time legislature," Davis said.

However, Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper noted he too thinks the legislature is at full-time status. The formal calls for August and September sessions allow lawmakers to deal with a variety of bills, including impeachment proceedings and legislation where the House and Senate didn't reach agreement in the long session.

"I'm concerned that this legislature has become a full-time legislature," he told reporters during a recent news conference at the Executive Mansion. "They need to come in and do their work, regarding dealing with gubernatorial vetoes. They need to do their work in redrawing districts ... and that really ought to be it. I hope that they can get their work done and go home. I think everybody would be happy."

Back in 2015, when lawmakers met until late September, Berger said that limiting the session length was "probably the more politically feasible approach." Rep. Nelson Dollar, R-Wake, this year introduced a constitutional amendment that would limit the length of the session to end on or before June 30, and would require them to stay adjourned until at least January 1 of the following year. The bill never made it out of a committee.

After the 2015 session then-Rep. Gary Pendleton, R-Wake, established a bipartisan advisory commission to look at putting a constitutional limit on session length. Pendleton, who lost reelection in 2016, said nothing became of the committee, which also hoped to find a way to raise legislative pay.

He said the main purpose was to shorten the session, and he would tell other lawmakers that states with larger populations than North Carolina's had session limits.

"It's almost like some people want to come to Raleigh and get out of wherever they live," Pendleton said. "I think there are so many rural legislators that didn't want to take it up."

Pendleton doesn't believe the legislature is on its way to becoming a full-time legislature. He commended leadership for making the decision to adjourn and come back in later months to finish business instead of "sitting there for days and days" waiting for things to happen.

Whether or not the legislature makes moves on limiting the amount of time it meets, McLennan said as the state continues to grow, more "pressure is on the legislature to do more." (Lauren Horsch, THE INSIDER, 7/13/17).

Hartsell Debt

Former N.C. Sen Fletcher Hartsell's campaign has more than \$400,000 in unpaid legal debts in the wake of his conviction for improper campaign spending, according to a campaign finance report filed this week. Hartsell, R-Cabarrus, left office last year in the midst of criminal charges that he

spent more than \$200,000 in campaign funds to pay for personal expenses and knowingly filed reports with false information.

His campaign finance report for the first half of 2017 shows that he acquired \$178,000 in new debt for legal services from four different law firms. As of June 30, his campaign had a total of \$407,000 in legal debts. The campaign only received one contribution during the reporting period: \$1,665 from the campaign of former Sen. Stan Bingham, R-Davidson, who retired from the legislature after last year's session. The report also shows that Hartsell used campaign money to make a \$125 donation to Baptist Children's Homes' facility in Guatemala on June 30.

In May, Hartsell received an eight-month prison sentence for two tax-law violations and one count of mail fraud related to the misuse of campaign finances. He also was ordered to pay \$63,000 in restitution. He is due to report to the federal Bureau of Prisons on July 17. (Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 7/13/17).

Chromium Standards

State environmental officials announced Wednesday night they plan to convene a science advisory board to specifically examine health and safety standards for contaminants like chromium associated with private wells near coal ash ponds. The announcement came after media outlets, including WRAL News, reported that regulators with the Department of Environmental Quality this month overrode the advice of state public health officials for more stringent standards for water filters to screen out a cancer-causing chemical for residents near coal ash ponds. By state law, Duke Energy must provide residents with private wells near the company's ash ponds with either new water lines or advanced filtration systems.

A draft memo obtained by WRAL News showed scientists with the state Department of Health and Human Services were critical of the DEQ-backed standard that would have required filters to screen out hexavalent chromium, a cancer-causing form of the element chromium, at 10 parts per billion. Because that threshold didn't account for hexavalent chromium's carcinogenic nature over time, the DHHS memo said, it didn't adequately protect public health. In a joint call for reporters at 6:40 p.m. Wednesday, announced with only minutes' notice, officials with DEQ and DHHS explained that the new science advisory board would develop new standards for contaminants, including hexavalent chromium, by serving as a form of external peer review. "We think the best approach is to have this board of independent scientists," Sheila Holman, DEQ's assistant secretary for the environment, said during the call. (Tyler Dukes, WRAL NEWS, 7/12/17).

Consumer Loans

The consumer finance industry, which recently succeeded in persuading the Republican-led state legislature to pass a bill that it wanted, has been a major contributor to GOP lawmakers in recent years. An analysis of state Board of Elections data by Democracy North Carolina, a voter rights and campaign finance watchdog group, found that people associated with the consumer loan industry and two industry political action committees gave at least \$530,000 to legislators and party committees over the past four years. Of that amount, 92 percent went to Republicans.

R.E. Everette, chair of the legislative committee of the Resident Lenders of North Carolina, which represents independently owned consumer loan companies in the state, said "there is no connection" between the industry's contributions and its recent legislative win. "We just support people who believe in free enterprise," Everette said. "I give to Democrats and Republicans, although I have to admit most of it has been to Republicans." Everette said that he doesn't expect that the candidates he donates to will always vote his way.

A bill pushed by the industry, HB 140, recently was passed by the legislature and is now sitting on Gov. Roy Cooper's desk. A spokesman for the governor said this week that he's reviewing the bill. The bill was passed over the objections of consumer advocacy groups that found themselves playing a legislative variation of whack-a-mole. The groups succeeded in getting the measure stripped from one bill, but it was subsequently added to two other bills.

Consumer finance companies make loans of up to \$15,000 at interest rates ranging from 18 percent to 30 percent for car repairs, vacations, funerals, weddings, debt consolidation and other needs and wants.

If the bill becomes law, consumer groups say, it will enable consumer finance companies to expand the type of products that consumer finance companies can sell credit property insurance

on in conjunction with a loan. Credit property insurance, which the consumer groups consider junk insurance, insures against damage or loss to property used to secure a loan. The industry, on the other hand, contends that the bill merely clarifies existing state law and defends credit property insurance as worthwhile. (David Ranii, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 7/12/17).

Executive Actions

Gov. Roy Cooper has vetoed legislation meant to legalize charitable casino nights, saying he fears the bill would open another door for a video poker industry the state has worked to stamp out for years. Cooper said in a statement that he's not against charities holding the occasional game night to raise money, but House Bill 511 "could cause unintended problems."

"Legitimizing charitable gambling in this way could give video poker a new way to infiltrate our communities," Cooper, said in a short veto statement emailed to media Wednesday afternoon.

"Allowing the industry to masquerade as a charity could cause unintended permits to be issued, and without tough criminal penalties enforcement would be difficult."

Legislators from both sides of the aisle had their own issues with this bill, worrying that it could be abused. Sponsors said it was innocent in intent, formally legalising events non-profits already use to raise money in the state. The bill was repeatedly debated and amended during session, eventually passing the House 76-32 and the Senate 27-15.

Republicans hold a veto proof majority in each chamber, but given bipartisan support for and against the bill, an overturn could prove difficult. It would take a vote three-fifths of the members present in both chambers to override Cooper's veto.

The governor signed a bill Wednesday that will add lessons on what to do when pulled over by law enforcement to the state's drivers education curriculum. This legislation, House Bill 21, passed both chambers unanimously. The state will develop this curriculum in consultation with the State Highway Patrol, N.C. Sheriff's Association and N.C. Association of Chiefs of Police, and information will also be included in drivers license handbooks. Among other things, the lesson will include appropriate interactions with law enforcement officers. Other bill signings announced by the governor's office Thursday (with summaries provided by his office):

- House Bill 27: An act to clarify when the registration of a vehicle renewed by means of a new registration plate expires.
- House Bill 95: An act to authorize permitted oversized or overweight vehicles to travel after sunset when transporting and delivering cargo, containers, or other equipment to or from international ports.
- House Bill 159: An act to extend the amount of time a charter school has to elect to become a participating employer in the teachers and state employees' retirement system
- House Bill 190: An act to reduce the number of years that a destitute firefighter serving honorably with a certified fire department must serve in order to receive financial assistance from a local firefighters' relief fund and to simplify various local board reporting requirements.
- House Bill 212: An act to reauthorize the division of motor vehicles to issue a special registration plate for the Zeta Phi Beta sorority.
- House Bill 224: An act to require the court to attempt to identify outstanding warrants before entering an order in a criminal case only in cases in which the defendant is in custody, as recommended by the North Carolina Courts Commission.
- House Bill 229: An act to make technical corrections to the general statutes, as recommended by the General Statutes Commission, and to make other technical, conforming, and clarifying changes.
- House Bill 248: An act to make changes to the adult care home and nursing home advisory committees to conform to the administration for community living rules and recent changes to the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman program and to direct the Department of Health and Human Services to study the HOPE act and related federal regulations and to make recommendations to the joint legislative oversight committee on health and human services.
- Senate Bill 8: An act to provide an exemption to building code provisions allowing construction of a parking garage to extend across a lot line between a city-owned lot and a

privately owned lot without meeting certain requirements; to restrict the stormwater runoff requirements that a local government can apply to public airports; and to revise the composition of the Lincolnton-Lincoln Airport Authority, to name the airport, and to name the airfield within the airport.

- Senate Bill 69: An act providing that the Local Government Commission shall notify a finance officer or other employee who performs the duties of a finance officer when he or she is required to participate in training related to the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the finance officer and requiring the employing local government or public authority to notify the Commission when the finance officer or other employee has completed the required training.
- Senate Bill 74: An act implementing the recommendations and guidelines of the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians regarding the management of dogs, cats, and ferrets exposed to rabies.
- Senate Bill 119: An act to authorize the Division of Motor Vehicles to produce a Pisgah Conservancy special registration plate.

(Travis Fain, WRAL NEWS, 7/12/17).

Campaign Fundraising

It's still unclear what the N.C. Senate district map will look like next year after court-ordered redistricting, but one candidate has already raised about \$82,000 to run for a seat. Cary attorney Wiley Nickel, a former staffer in President Barack Obama's administration, opened a campaign organization in May and hopes to flip a Republican-held seat.

But with the uncertainty surrounding districts, he doesn't yet know what district he'll run in. Nickel filed his first campaign finance report this week, showing a strong start in the period that ended June 30. He brought in a total of \$82,066, although \$35,000 of that was from a contribution he made to his campaign on June 30. "We're working hard to help break the Republicans' super majorities in 2018," Nickel said in an email to The Insider. "The high level of support we've received bodes very well for a change in Raleigh next year." (Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 7/13/17).

Duke Unionization

Duke University's non-tenured faculty have reached a tentative agreement in their first union contract, which includes higher pay and longer-term teaching appointments. The three-year negotiated contract would cover about 275 part-time and full-time contingent faculty, according to Service Employees International Union, which the Duke faculty joined last year.

Average pay increases during the contract would be: 14 percent for faculty paid on a per-course basis; nearly 12 percent for salaried faculty; and 46 percent for faculty in Applied Music, who are the lowest-paid faculty. Roughly half to two-thirds of faculty in those categories would receive higher-than-average raises, according to SEIU. The agreement includes multi-year teaching appointments, the same benefits as other Duke employees and pay protections for canceled courses. A new fund would be set up for professional development.

The deal makes history. It would be the first faculty union contract at a major private university in the South, SEIU said. Faculty in other Southern states such as Florida and Tennessee are currently working to form unions. Duke officials declined to comment until after the vote is ratified by the union's bargaining unit. Members will continue to vote on ratification through the end of the month.

Part-time and full-time non-tenured faculty at Duke voted in March 2016 to unionize. A group called Duke Teaching First led the effort to join the Service Employees International Union in hopes of better pay and benefits. It was the first union election at a private university in the South in decades. Other private universities around the country have seen an uptick in union activity by contract faculty workers, who are an increasingly large part of the teaching force in higher education.

Early this year, a unionization vote by Duke graduate students failed after many votes were challenged by the university and the union. (Jane Stancill, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 7/12/17).

Protester Ban

A Wake County judge plans to draft new pre-trial release conditions for people arrested during a protest at the Legislative Building, saying Wednesday that banning them from the building goes too far.

Thirty-two people, including NAACP president Rev. William Barber, were arrested during the May 30 protest over Republican lawmakers' refusal to expand the Medicaid program as allowed under the Affordable Care Act to provide health coverage for more low-income people.

NAACP attorney Geeta Kapur said during a court hearing for several of the protesters that the state constitution specifically grants people the right to "instruct" legislators. The General Assembly is a public forum where lawmakers work, so protestors can't be banned from it, she said.

Wake County Assistant District Attorney Vanessa Curtis argued that it's common for people charged with trespassing to be banned from the specific property involved until the case is resolved. The state has the power to impose reasonable restrictions on people's rights to avoid disrupting legislative work, she added.

"Where the exercise of someone's First Amendment rights interferes with the public purpose, it is appropriate that the government can step in and set reasonable limitations," Curtis told District Judge Michael Denning. "The state has a significant governmental interest in seeing that the work of its legislative branch may occur and that the individuals employed to work in this building feel safe."

Curtis maintained that the banned protestors could use other means to communicate with lawmakers, such as phone calls or emails. But Barber said the Legislative Building belongs to the people of the state and should be open to all.

Denning agreed that banning protestors until further notice is too broad, but he said there will be some restrictions in the modified release conditions he plans to write. (Laura Leslie, WRAL NEWS, 7/12/17).

Lewis Tweets

House Rules Chairman David Lewis called on several anonymous Twitter critics to reveal their names Tuesday night, saying one of them is a "coward."

"Thanks for tweeting to nothing," he tweeted to a Twitter user, identified only as "Der Meshugeh." "Feel good about screaming to the world? Good for you. Especially w/o pride in your real name. ... So tired of fake names."

"Der Meshugeh" had criticized Lewis for not acting sooner to redraw legislative district maps. Lawmakers are awaiting a federal court order to set a timeline for the process. The anonymous Twitter user used profanity to describe Lewis' rhetoric. Lewis, R-Harnett, then repeatedly called on the user to reveal themselves. "5 min to fail in cowardice," he tweeted. "Come on @DerMeshugeh don't hide. Don't be coward."

Lewis also responded to an account labeled "Groucho Marxist." "Ah. Once again a 'creative' but fake and cowardly name," Lewis tweeted. "At least your description is accurate. Good effort at leftist trick 2 change subject." In another tweet, Lewis said "Free speech means a person w courage 2 make their thoughts known. Ashamed of who you are? Prefer 2 throw poop in shadows? Sad." (Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 7/13/17).

Seismic Blasting

Shooting air guns into the ocean could soon be fair game in the search for oil and gas along the North Carolina coast, even if the seismic blasts "harass marine mammals" such as whales. The National Marine Fisheries Service is considering allowing the practice by energy companies and wants the public to weigh in.

"Seismic blasting" is a controversial technique using air guns to explore and map offshore oil and gas reserves deep beneath the ocean floor. They are towed behind ships, shooting loud blasts of compressed air deep into the seabed. These blasts can be repeated every 10 seconds for days to weeks at a time. Coastal communities and environmental activists say the blasts could harm marine life -- including whales -- and disturb fishing and tourism.

It's not just North Carolina. Communities and activists in South Carolina, Virginia and Georgia galvanized by opposition to offshore drilling also are opposed to air-gun blasting off their coast.

The fisheries service, part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and also known as NOAA Fisheries, is accepting public comments through July 21 on proposals to allow companies "to incidentally, but not intentionally, harass marine mammals," according to a news release from the fisheries service.

In January, the Obama administration denied applications for seismic blasting along the East Coast, but President Donald Trump's administration reversed that decision through an executive order a few months later. Under the Trump administration, the fisheries service could issue as many as five permits to oil and gas companies to allow them to use the air guns to search for potential drilling sites.

Dozens of members of the U.S. House -- including Republican Rep. Walter Jones, who represents much of Eastern North Carolina -- sent a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke in "strong opposition" to the use of air guns. In the letter, the members of Congress cited a 2014 study conducted by researchers at UNC, Duke and the NOAA off the North Carolina coast that showed seismic blasting resulted a decline in reef fish and that the seismic air guns can be heard more than 2,500 miles from their source, about two-thirds of the way across the Atlantic Ocean.

Former Gov. Pat McCrory advocated for offshore energy surveying in 2014. Gov. Roy Cooper hasn't taken a position on the practice; Cooper's office did not respond to a request for comment.(Abbie Bennett, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 7/12/17).

Ash Pollution

The nation's largest electric company wants regulators in North Carolina to force consumers to pay nearly \$200 million a year to clean up the toxic byproducts of burning coal to generate power. That doesn't sit well with neighbors of the power plants who have been living on bottled water since toxic chemicals appeared in some of their wells.

"They want to pass their mistakes on to the land owner. This is not fair," wrote Nancy Gurley, who lives near the utility's plant in Goldsboro. She was responding to a request filed with state utility regulators last month that marks the first time Duke Energy Corp. has sought permission to have North Carolina consumers pay part of its costs of cleaning up the waste, which are estimated to total \$5.1 billion in North and South Carolina alone.

Duke Energy Progress would raise electricity bills of 1.3 million North Carolina customers by an average 15 percent, generating an extra \$477 million a year, with an 11 percent return on a measure commonly described as potential profit margin. The bulk of that would cover ongoing costs of replacing coal-burning plants with natural gas and storm repairs. But it also includes \$66 million already spent to deal with coal ash, and \$129 million more in future clean-up costs. Duke Energy Carolinas -- the holding company's other North Carolina subsidiary -- is expected to request a rate hike for its 2.5 million customers for similar reasons in the coming months.

Coal ash contains arsenic, lead, mercury and other elements that may be hazardous in sufficient concentrations. Duke Energy denies that its basins contaminate the surrounding groundwater. But environmentalists and state regulators say those heavy metals could be seeping through the unlined bottoms of pits where liquefied coal ash has been stored for decades, into natural sources for wells where worrying concentrations have been documented.

The company is generating an average of about 150 pounds of coal ash a year for each household, Duke Energy spokeswoman Paige Sheehan said. "It is our job to manage that appropriately, which we are doing," she said.

Duke Energy's clean-up plan includes excavating coal ash and moving it away from waterways at eight of the 14 North Carolina sites and two others in South Carolina. The company plans to dry out, cover and leave in place the ash in other North Carolina pits. A North Carolina law passed last year also requires the company to pay for well-water replacements for about 1,000 other households, either by extending municipal water lines or providing filtering systems.

The company based in Charlotte delivers electricity to 7.5 million customers in the Carolinas, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Florida. It already persuaded South Carolina's utilities commission in December to allow it to start recouping coal ash cleanup costs as part of a \$56 million rate increase that includes a 10 percent potential profit margin.(Emery P. Dalesio, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 7/12/17).

Rate Hike

Blue Ridge Energy has estimated it will have to increase rates by 3 percent to help pay for the cost of remediating Duke Energy coal ash facilities. "With the information available at this time, Blue Ridge Energy anticipates the need for a rate adjustment in 2018 as a result of Duke's coal ash remediation," a June 23 BRE statement said. "Based on current estimates, we believe the increase will be around 3 percent. The cooperative will keep its members informed as the rate case for Duke Energy Carolinas concludes and the final impact is determined."

Blue Ridge Energy, a not-for-profit electric cooperative serving 75,000 members primarily in Caldwell, Watauga, Ashe and Alleghany counties, purchases its power from Duke Energy. BRE's Chief Executive Officer Doug Johnson said the anticipated 3 percent increase "should be sufficient" according to its rate projections and not require further hikes, but estimates will be "much more refined" once the North Carolina Utilities Commission conducts its public hearings and review on Duke Energy Carolinas this fall.

Duke Energy Progress, an operating division of Duke Energy, is seeking a 14.9 percent increase for its customers. Duke Energy Progress operates in most of eastern North Carolina and the greater Asheville area, according to its filings.

The Sierra Club, a national environmental organization, has asked citizens to email the NCUC to say they want Duke Energy to be held responsible for the costs of cleanup, not the customers.(Thomas Sherrill, THE WATAUGA DEMOCRAT, 7/12/17).

No Sunday Sales

A North Carolina city has rejected the idea of early Sunday alcohol sales. Local media outlets report the Board of Aldermen in New Bern entertained a motion to adopt the measure during its meeting on Tuesday. The city tweeted Alderman Jeffrey Odham made a motion the motion, but no one offered to second it and there was no vote. Opponents of the proposal said it would deter people from going to church. The Raleigh City Council voted last Wednesday for an ordinance allowing local Alcoholic Beverage Control permit holders to serve drinks at 10 a.m. instead of noon. Carrboro's Board of Aldermen passed a similar ordinance last week. The changes by the two municipalities began last weekend. Atlantic Beach and Surf City have also adopted early Sunday alcohol sales.(THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 7/12/17).

DWI Investigation

The State Bureau of Investigation has completed its investigation into alleged irregularities involving multiple impaired driving cases handled by a Greenville defense attorney and has turned them over to the state Attorney General's office for review. An SBI spokesman said Friday that the agency had completed the nearly 3-year-old investigation involving Mark Owens III. The state Special Prosecutions Office, a part of the Attorney General's office and the N.C. Department of Justice, will decide if the investigation warrants criminal charges. The investigation began in October 2014 at the request of the Pitt County District Attorney's Office, and agents from the Greenville office of the SBI were initially investigating forms asking for continuances signed by retired District Court Judge James E. Martin for Owens' clients. Questions arose during the investigation about other documents that said defendants had completed community service hours as part of resolving their DWI cases, so the investigation was expanded to determine if the defendants had actually completed the service or whether the documents may have been forged, according to multiple sources in the courthouse. Most of those cases also involved clients of Owens.

Pitt County District Attorney Kimberly Robb asked for the investigation in 2014 after her staff noticed some problems with the way continuances had been signed and filed with the court. "Upon learning of some irregularities in DWI-related court documents from the lawyer in question, we requested an SBI investigation and referred the case to the Attorney General's office," Robb said in a written statement. "As potential witnesses, we cannot comment on the evidence, but our office has cooperated fully with the SBI's investigation in keeping with our obligation to administer justice."

Law enforcement and court officials have been tight-lipped about the investigation, but the Pitt County Clerk's office has set aside nearly 80 files that SBI agents reviewed to check the number and types of continuances and the community service records in them.(Beth Velliquette, THE (Greenville) DAILY REFLECTOR, 7/12/17).

Western Medical School

The UNC School of Medicine's Asheville campus not only gives students exposure to the challenges and benefits of practicing in rural areas early on, it's also creating a pipeline where promising medical students end up putting down roots and practicing in Western North Carolina, said Dr. Robyn Latessa, the program director and assistant dean for the UNC School of Medicine- Asheville campus. It's not that medical schools aren't churning out enough doctors, but that many choose to stay in the urban settings where most of the nation's medical schools are based. "The whole problem in the United States is that we may have enough providers, but they're unevenly distributed," she said.

State lawmakers have carved out an additional \$15.5 million over the next two years in this summer's budget negotiations for the medical school's Asheville campus, said state Rep. Chuck McGrady, R-Henderson, one of the House of Representatives' main budget writers. "Policy makers recognize that we have a shortage of doctors in rural North Carolina," McGrady said. "This was a way of addressing that."

Studies show that doctors tend to practice where they study and do their residencies, said Dr. Jeff Heck, the president of the Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC), which houses the medical school and other healthcare education program. "We want to make sure, as much as possible, we're training people who have a great chance of retention to rural areas," Heck said. The state money will not only increase the number of practitioners, but communities will be strengthened overall, he said. "It's an amazing gift and an amazing opportunity for any area like ours that has so many health care needs and is really desperate for more professionals," Heck said of the additional funding. The recent influx in state funding is part of a years-long plan to boost the numbers of medical providers in the rural, mountainous part of the state. Complementing the medical school at MAHEC are similar collaborative programs with UNC's Gillings School of Public Health and Eshelman School of Pharmacy, as well as Western Carolina University's nursing and nurse practitioner programs. (Sarah Ovaska-Few, CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS, 7/10/17).

UNC Letter

One of the leading advocates of shutting down the UNC Center for Civil Rights' law practice solicited a letter from a hog-industry trade group that criticized its handling of a federal complaint and relations with the industry in general. The letter from the N.C. Pork Council is part of the file the UNC system's Board of Governors is considering as it weighs whether to tell law-school centers and institutes at UNC Chapel Hill and N.C. Central University they have to stop representing clients in legal matters.

In it, Pork Council CEO Andy Curliss said his group has "not been able to establish a productive working relationship" with the center's staff lawyers, and that it "disagree[s] strongly" with claims from them and their clients that hog farmers are "practicing 'environmental racism' that injures communities of color."

A proposed ban on litigation by the UNC Center for Civil Rights has drawn heavy opposition from students, faculty, alumni and others, who say such a prohibition would hurt the university's teaching, research and public service missions. Curliss said at the start of the letter that he wrote it at the request of Steve Long, the Board of Governors member spearheading the effort to shutter the center's law practice. Long confirmed he'd urged the Pork Council to "send in a letter" about its dealings with the Center for Civil Rights. "I thought we ought to have their comment heard and they should participate in the conversation like everybody else," Long said.

He added that he believes the council "thought it was inappropriate for the university to have lawyers involved in a dispute that would affect their industry when the lawyers were trying to stop them from participating in a mediation that was going to affect the rules in their industry."

The Pork Council's letter, however, voiced no such position. Curliss said his organization prefers "to work with the university and other stakeholders," and added that "neither I nor the N.C. Pork Council wishes to cause any ill will." In an email, Curliss said he doesn't know what Long "had heard or read or to whom he spoke with by the time he reached me" to solicit the letter. Curliss, a former News & Observer reporter, became the council's CEO in November, replacing Deborah Johnson, a UNC-CH alumna.

The dispute the letter and Long both alluded to occurred in early 2016, while Johnson was still in charge. Lawyers for the Pork Council and another trade group sought to participate in a closed-

door mediation between N.C. Department of Environmental Quality regulators and a trio of environmental groups the Center for Civil Rights is helping represent.

The center's clients in 2014 filed a federal regulatory complaint alleging that DEQ is violating the civil rights of hog-farm neighbors by failing to insist that farmers replace "grossly inadequate and outdated" systems for limiting hog waste's effects on the air and water. The complaint only targeted the state government, rather than any farmer industry trade group, and in essence argues DEQ isn't doing its job. Mediation conferences are open only to the parties to a complaint, unless they all agree someone else can participate, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials said after the center's clients objected to and blocked the Pork Council's attempt to join the talks. Center for Civil Rights lawyer Elizabeth Haddix said the Pork Council "doesn't have any place in" deciding whether or not DEQ is honoring its obligations, and had "sought to interrupt the process" for handling the complaint. She said the center's clients had viewed the attempted intervention as "an act of intimidation" because the time, place and agenda for the mediation was supposed to have been confidential, and yet was leaked by DEQ to industry groups.

The Pork Council's board includes a trio of N.C. State University professors. Their role wouldn't be affected by the Board of Governors' pending decision about policy for law-school centers and institutes.(Ray Gronberg, DURHAM HERALD-SUN, 7/12/17).

Deaths

Jack Trawick, an editor who coordinated the Winston-Salem Journal's 1971 Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of the effects of strip mining in Appalachia, died Saturday at Forsyth Medical Center. He was 80. Trawick died of complications of leukemia, said his son, Michael Trawick.

A native of Macon, Ga., Jack Trawick graduated in 1957 from Davidson College with a bachelor's degree in English and French, according to his obituary. He served three years as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy. Trawick joined the staff of the Journal as a reporter in 1961. He won several awards for reporting government affairs and business news. He was promoted to assistant state editor in April 1966, and then to state editor in April 1967. In that role, he coordinated much of the coverage that earned the Journal's 1971 Pulitzer Prize.

Trawick retired in 1999 as an assistant to the publisher, his son said.(John Hinton, WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL, 7/12/17).

Teacher Bonuses

Remember that bonus from the state that went out to some teachers this winter? It was a pilot program that gave retention bonuses to certain groups of teachers. One of those groups was third-grade teachers whose students had high test scores for 2015-16. But there was a catch: they had to be teaching third grade in the same school district the next year to qualify.

In an interview this winter, Guilford County Schools Chief of Staff Nora Carr said some who taught third grade in 2015-16 may have switched grades for 2016-17 before they learned of the bonus for that past year's student performance. That would mean losing out on about \$5000 or \$8,000. Without knowing about the bonus and its conditions, teachers would have no way of knowing they'd be penalized for switching grades. Nor would principals know they were possibly hurting a teacher's bottom line in asking them to change.

A new law, ratified on June 26, provides what it calls a "bonus substitute." Under the new law, some former third-grade teachers are eligible for between \$3,500 and \$7,000 as a substitute for that bonus. They must have taught third grade in 2015-16 and otherwise earned the bonus, but missed out because they moved grades within the same school for a reason other than refusing to teach third grade.

The new law also provides bonus substitutes for teachers who moved out of teaching the advanced courses, so long as they remained at the same school and did not refuse to teach the advanced courses. There's no provision aimed at teachers of industry certification courses.

The state legislature also voted to make a significantly expanded version of the bonus pilot program permanent.(Jessie Pounds, GREENSBORO NEWS & RECORD, 7/12/17).

Aquifer Draining

Cape Fear Public Utility Authority has contracted with Wilmington-based Catlin Engineering to pump almost 50 million gallons of water contaminated by GenX out of an aquifer where it was

stored for later use. Since early June, residents and officials have expressed great concern that GenX, about which very little is known, was found in their drinking water. A StarNews special report last month revealed that Chemours -- and before that DuPont -- has been releasing GenX into the Cape Fear River on-and- off since 1980 as a discharge from a vinyl ether process being conducted at its Fayetteville Works plant.

CFPUA's aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) is designed to take treated water from the Sweeney Water Treatment Plant and let it drain into the Upper PeeDee Aquifer, where it is stored to be pumped out later for drinking water.

Executive Director Jim Flechtner said Wednesday during CFPUA's Board of Directors meeting that Catlin Engineers and Scientists will remove 49 million gallons of water injected into the Upper PeeDee Aquifer and test it for GenX. The contract is not to exceed \$50,000, officials said. (Kevin Maurer, WILMINGTON STAR-NEWS, 7/12/17).

New Trustees

Resources: [Appointment Recommendations \(HB 256\)](#)

State lawmakers have appointed two new members to the N.C. A&T Board of Trustees and reappointed two current members to UNCG's governing board. All four appointees will serve four-year terms ending in June 2021.

The new A&T board members are:

- Calvin Brodie, owner of a Raleigh general contracting company, Brodie Contractors, that has done work on university campuses, public schools in Wake County and Moses Cone Hospital, among others. A Zebulon resident, Brodie is the father of current A&T trustee Toby Brodie, who was appointed in 2015.
- Paul L. Jones, a retired senior resident Superior Court judge who served in Lenoir and Greene counties. A Kinston resident, Jones is an A&T graduate who got his law degree at N.C. Central University. Jones also is a retired colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve.

They replace Faye Tate Williams, who served two full terms and wasn't eligible for a third; and William Dudley, who wasn't reappointed after serving one term.

The reappointed UNCG trustees are:

- Frances Bullock, a community volunteer who lives in Greensboro.
- Vanessa Carroll, a UNCG graduate and former mental health administrator who lives in Greensboro.

Both Bullock and Carroll were appointed to the UNCG board in 2013 by former Gov. Pat McCrory. These four appointments were made for the first time by the legislature. The governor formerly picked four of the 12 members of each UNC school's board of trustees. (The UNC Board of Governors makes the other eight selections.) However, a new state law split these four seats among the two houses of the legislature.

This year, Senate President Phil Berger (R-Rockingham) nominated Brodie (A&T) and Bullock (UNCG). House Speaker Tim Moore (R-Cleveland) nominated Jones (A&T) and Carroll (UNCG). (John Newsom, GREENSBORO NEWS & RECORD, 7/12/17).

GOP Kerfuffle

Allegations made last week by a member of the Haywood Republican Alliance that the Haywood County Republican Party recently passed a resolution charging five local Republicans with political "party disloyalty" shocked and angered many across the region and the state. The HCGOP -- along with the North Carolina Republican Party -- had remained silent on the issue, until now.

"At this point there is no story because no charges have been made. But that did not stop the consummate purveyors of fact-free statements from trying to create a story," said HCGOP Precinct Chair Ted Carr in a letter to The Smoky Mountain News on July 10.

On July 2, HRA member Eddie Cabe alleged in an email that he and fellow HRA members Jeremy Davis, Richard West and Paul Yeager had, during the closed session of a special called meeting, been charged with disloyalty and banned from party activity. Cabe's claim hinged solely on the

word of local conservative activist and HRA member Monroe Miller, who is also paradoxically a member of the HCGOP's executive committee and was also branded as "disloyal" in the alleged resolution.

When asked for comment on the matter July 2, Carr said it would be "inappropriate" for an executive committee member to reveal such closed-door proceedings; in his July 10 letter, he lamented that one unnamed executive committee member -- presumably Miller "violated" that trust.

The ability of a private organization to remove its own members is not in question, nor are the service and due process requirements laid out in the NCGOP's governing documents. Haywood County Democratic Party Chair Myrna Campbell said that such a process exists within the North Carolina Democratic Party as well, but she'd never heard of it being used in her 12 years of party work.

The NCGOP documents cited by NCGOP Executive Director Dallas Woodhouse say that formal charges of party disloyalty must be signed by the lesser of either 50 committee members or one-third of the committee, and then presented to the accused two weeks prior to any vote. Formal charges are limited to gross inefficiency, party disloyalty or failure to comply with organizational plans. Woodhouse said that the process would also "require/allow all sides to present their case for judgment."

Miller said on his website he'd obviously voted 'no' on the resolution naming himself and others as 'disloyal' Republicans, but the measure passed anyway, 12 to 2. (Cory Vaillancourt, THE SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, 7/12/17).

Buncombe Democrats

Being a member of the minority party in the state General Assembly often means playing a lot of defense. Some Democrats who represent Buncombe County in Raleigh say they spent much of their time during this year's legislative session, where the Republican majority sets the agenda, trying to keep things they opposed from happening rather than getting their own bills passed.

Rep. Susan Fisher, D-Buncombe, and Sen. Terry Van Duyn, D-Buncombe, used the same word to describe their efforts during the legislative session that stretched from late January to June 30: Frustrating.

"For the first three to four months, much of the negotiating around new legislation was happening behind closed doors in Republican caucus rooms," Van Duyn said. That slowed the General Assembly's usual pace for much of the session, she said, then legislators had to consider too many bills in the final days of the session as they raced to leave Raleigh.

The number of bills that had become law through June 15 was the smallest in a legislative "long" session since before 2001, and only about a third of the average for that period. And even if Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper signs every bill the General Assembly left on his desk before it adjourned, the number of bills passed for the entire 2017 session would be less than half the average for long sessions in the same period.

Fisher and Rep. John Ager, D-Buncombe, said Democrats in general had a hard time getting bills to become law. "Not only am I a Democrat, but I'm in a seat (Republicans) want back," Ager said. "They don't want me to come back home and say, 'I got this done.'"

Van Duyn says one of her accomplishments was bringing attention to an effort that would have led to disbanding state agencies in charge of coordinating mental health care for people on Medicaid. She said the state was moving too quickly and could have hurt patient care. The idea died.

Van Duyn was involved in helping pass a bill to scale back parts of HB2, although she said she was not entirely happy with the compromise and feels there is more work to do. "That's a fight that I plan to continue," she said.

Ager said Democratic votes were also important in turning back, for now at least, an effort to give North Carolina's endorsement to a call for a convention to rewrite the U.S. Constitution.

Rep. Brian Turner, D-Buncombe, and Sen. Chuck Edwards, R-Henderson, had more positive views of their 2017 legislative sessions.

Edwards, whose district includes southern Buncombe County, said his major individual accomplishment was passage of a bill that requires six of the seven members of Asheville City Council be elected from single-member districts. He is serving his first full term in the Senate.

Turner said he has had some success in moving legislation by finding issues he and some Republican colleagues agree on, even though none of the bills for which he was a lead sponsor made it through both the House and Senate this year. The House did approve a Turner bill to limit hunting from the roadside in Buncombe County, which Turner says would reduce poaching and ease a safety hazard in rural areas, but the Senate has yet to act. (Mark Barrett, ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES, 7/12/17).

Ocracoke Ferry

The National Park Service has approved a plan submitted by the North Carolina Department of Transportation to build a system to support the Hatteras-Ocracoke Passenger Ferry, which is scheduled to start running in 2018.

A Finding of No Significant Impact was recently signed by Stan Austin, director of the Southeast Region of the National Park Service, completing the National Environmental Policy Act and National Historic Preservation Act processes that began earlier this year, according to a news release.

NCDOT requested a special use permit from the Park Service to construct several facilities within the boundaries of Cape Hatteras National Seashore to support the ferry's operation. The passenger ferry project is aimed at easing long waits for the vehicle ferry that crosses Hatteras Inlet.

The existing Hatteras ferry terminal space will be converted into two additional parking areas to accommodate passenger vehicles and NCDOT ferry division employees, and an open air passenger waiting facility will be built in front of the Ocracoke Visitor Center. (Sam Walker, THE OUTER BANKS VOICE, 7/12/17).

Legislative Studies and Meetings

Items in **Bold** are new listings.

LB: Legislative Building

LOB: Legislative Office Building.

More Information: <http://ncleg.net/LegislativeCalendar/>

Friday, July 14

- 10 a.m. | The North Carolina General Statutes Commission, Partition Task Force, 510 W. Williams St., Apex.

Thursday, Aug. 3

- Noon | House convenes in session.
- Noon | Senate convenes in session.

N.C. Government Meetings and Hearings

Items in **BOLD** are new listings.

Thursday, July 13

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

Friday, July 14

- 9 a.m. | The N.C. Board of Architecture hold public hearing on proposed rule changes, 127 W. Hargett St., #304, Raleigh.

Monday, July 17

- 11 a.m. | The Executive Committee of The North Carolina Partnership for Children meets, 1100 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh. Contact: Yvonne Huntley, [919-821-9573](tel:919-821-9573).

Tuesday, July 18

- 1:30 p.m. | The Accountability Committee of The North Carolina Partnership for Children meets, 1100 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh. Contact: Yvonne Huntley, [919-821-9573](tel:919-821-9573).

Wednesday, July 19

- 9 a.m. | The N.C. Plant Conservation Board meets, N.C. Cooperative Extension Service Watauga County Center Conference, Room 971 W. King St., Boone.

Thursday, July 20

- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

Tuesday, July 25

- 9 a.m. | The N.C. Code Officials Qualification Board holds public hearing on proposed rule changes, 1st Floor Hearing Room, Room 131 (Albemarle Building), 325 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.
- 1 p.m. | The Board Development Committee of The North Carolina Partnership for Children meets, 1100 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh. Contact: Yvonne Huntley, [919-821-9573](tel:919-821-9573).

Thursday, July 27

- 9 a.m. | The NC Wildlife Resources Commission meets, WRC Centennial Campus, 1751 Varsity Dr., Raleigh.

Monday, July 31

- 12 p.m. | The N.C. State Board of Elections hold public hearing on proposed rule changes, State Board of Elections Office, 441 N. Harrington St., Raleigh.

Tuesday, Aug. 1

- 12 p.m. | The UNC Board of Governors' Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs, Board Room of the Center for School Leadership Development, 140 Friday Center Dr., Chapel Hill. Contact: Josh Ellis, [919-962-4629](tel:919-962-4629).

Thursday, Aug. 3

- TBD | The Golden LEAF Foundation's board meets, TBD. Contact: Jenny Tinklepaugh, [888-684-8404](tel:888-684-8404).

Wednesday, Aug. 16

- 10:30 a.m. | The Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission holds public hearing on proposed rule changes, Wake Technical Community College-Public Safety Training Center, 321 Chapanoke Road, Raleigh.

Thursday, Aug. 17

- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

Wednesday, Sept. 13

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

Thursday, Sept. 14

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

Thursday, Sept. 21

- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

Thursday, Sept. 28

- 10:30 a.m. | The Standard Commercial Fishing License Eligibility Board to the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries meets, N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries' Wilmington District Office, 127 North Cardinal Dr. Extension, Wilmington.

Thursday, Oct. 5

- TBD | The Golden LEAF Foundation's board meets, TBD. Contact: Jenny Tinklepaugh, [888-684-8404](tel:888-684-8404).
- TBD | The NC Wildlife Resources Commission meets, WRC Centennial Campus, 1751 Varsity Dr., Raleigh.

Thursday, Oct. 19

- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

Wednesday, Nov. 8

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

Thursday, Nov. 9

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

Thursday, Nov. 16

- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

Thursday, Dec. 7

- TBD | The Golden LEAF Foundation's board meets, TBD. Contact: Jenny Tinklepaugh, [888-684-8404](tel:888-684-8404).
- TBD | The NC Wildlife Resources Commission meets, 1751 Varsity Dr., Raleigh.

Thursday, Dec. 21

- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

Wednesday, Jan. 10

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

Thursday, Jan. 11

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality

The N.C. Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources has a new name - the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality. More Information: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/guest/home>

Tuesday, July 18

- **6 p.m. | The N.C. Division of Water Resources hold public meeting on Atlantic Coast Pipeline Water Quality Certification, Fayetteville Technical Community College Cumberland Hall Auditorium at 2201 Hull Rd., Fayetteville.**

Thursday, July 20

- **6 p.m. | The N.C. Division of Water Resources hold public meeting on Atlantic Coast Pipeline Water Quality Certification, Nash Community College Brown Auditorium at 522 N. Old Carriage Road, Rocky Mount.**

Thursday, Aug. 3

- **2 p.m. | The state Department on Air Quality holds public hearing concerning incorporation of 2015 Ozone Ambient Standard and Readoption, 2145 Suttle Ave., Charlotte.**

N.C. Utilities Commission Hearing Schedule

Dobbs Building
430 North Salisbury Street
Raleigh, North Carolina
More Information: <http://www.ncuc.commerce.state.nc.us/activities/activit.htm>

Monday, July 17

- Staff Conference

Monday, July 24

- Staff Conference

Monday, July 31

- Staff Conference

UNC Board of Governors

Board Room of the UNC Center for School Leadership Development
140 Friday Center Drive, Chapel Hill (**remote meeting locations in BOLD**)
More Information: <https://www.northcarolina.edu/bog/schedule.php>

Thursday, July 13

- 3:30 p.m. | **The UNC Board of Governors, Mountain View Conference Room of the Sherrill Center, University of North Carolina at Asheville, Asheville.**

Friday, July 14

- 9 a.m. | The UNC Board of Governors meets, Room 102, in the Reuter Center of the University of North Carolina at Asheville, Asheville.

Tuesday, Aug. 1

- 12 p.m. | The Board of Governors' Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs, Board Room of the Center for School Leadership Development, 140 Friday Center Dr., Chapel Hill.

Friday, Sept. 8

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

Friday, Nov. 3

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

Friday, Dec. 15

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

Friday, Jan. 26, 2018

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

Friday, March 23, 2018

- TBA | UNC Wilmington, Wilmington.

Friday, May 25, 2018

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

Other Meetings and Events of Interest

Items in **BOLD** are new listings.

Thursday, July 13

- **4 p.m. | Gov. Roy Cooper participates in a panel on the opioid crisis, Curbing the Opioid Epidemic: A Discussion with Governors on the Front Lines, Providence, Rhode Island. National Governors Association's summer meeting.**

Sunday, July 30

- TBD | The NC Bankers Association host 81st Annual NC School of Banking, William & Ida Friday Center, UNC-Chapel Hill. The conference concludes on Aug. 4.

Friday, Sept. 8

- No Time Given | The 77th Annual National Folk Festival opens in Downtown Greensboro for its third year in the state. Contact: Kaitlin Smith, [336-373-7523, ext 246](tel:336-373-7523).

Sunday, Sept. 24

- TBD | The NC Bankers Association hold Young Bankers Conference, Crowne Plaza Asheville Resort, Asheville.

Wednesday, Oct. 11

- 10 a.m. | The Carolinas Air Pollution Control Association hold Technical Workshop and Forum, Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort, 10000 Beach Club Dr., Myrtle Beach.

Monday, Nov. 6

- TBD | The NC Bankers Association hold Women in Banking Conference, Renaissance Charlotte Southpark, 5501 Carnegie Blvd., Charlotte.

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